

# The Kol Nefesh Green Policy

Approved by the Kol Nefesh Masorti Tapuz (Community Meeting), 28 June, 2022

THIS DOCUMENT comprises a formal commitment by the leadership in our community to improve the environmental credentials of our synagogue, and model behaviours and practices which reflect our values as a member of EcoSynagogue. This policy reflects new and existing procedures and measures within Kol Nefesh Masorti Synagogue (KNMS) that ensure issues highlighted in the EcoSynagogue Audit are addressed and taken forward regularly and strategically. (See “The Environmental Audit – Questions” from The EcoSynagogue website.)

## 1. Management

The KNMS Tapuz has authorised the KNM Green Team to investigate and improve on issues highlighted in the EcoSynagogue Audit. (See “Getting Started” – Environmental Impact Team & 5E’s” from EcoSynagogue.)

The KNM Green Team will report regularly on its activities to the Tapuz.

The KNM Green Team represents different generations of our community and/or people with different lifestyles.

## 2. Prayer

KNMS promotes environmental activities as an expression of our concerns for the environment. We actively encourage the congregation to become involved in current environmental issues.

Special sermons about environmental issues are delivered at least once a year (the Green Team will liaise with the respective pelach to organise). However, the environment should be considered a periodic theme throughout the Jewish year, particularly during Shmita years.

Every year over the Yamim Nora'im we will do a brief check in with the community on what can be done for the environment – a kind of taking stock of the actions each member has done or could do in the coming year.

## 3. Teaching

The synagogue’s Bar and Bat Mitzvah programme contains segments on *Bal Tashchit* (a prohibition on destroying trees which morphs into a broad prohibition on wanton destruction and inefficient resource use) and *Ts’ar Ba’alei chayim* (hurting animals). The monthly green allotment group has a running educational component throughout the year looking at environmental issues (e.g., Bal Tashchit, Shmita). General programming in our synagogue’s shiurim explores environmental issues at Jewish and world environmental touchpoints. Environmental concerns are factored in when considering how to balance our provision of online and in-person educational events, and also when considering printing source materials.

## 4. Community

KNMS is committed to engaging with our community regarding environmental issues. We plan to continue to hold regular Green Lunches which will be vegetarian/vegan using local food sources. We have donated all plastic glasses and single-use cutlery and now use only reusable cutlery and crockery. KNMS does not bring in single-use plastics for in-house communal events.

We hope to pair up with another EcoSynagogue to organise events about local issues. We encourage our members to donate to Kol Nefesh specifically for green issues.

## 5. Communications

KNMS holds periodic events related to the environment, and these are a key part of our regular communications. In addition, we plan to raise the profile of environmental issues in our communications through asking young members, whose lives will likely be most impacted by these issues, to share reflections and calls to action on environmental themes linked to the Jewish year. We will also

ask members to share their experiences of making climate-conscious lifestyle changes to inspire others to do the same and to make these choices part of the normal culture of the shul. During the Shmita year, when there will be an environmental focus to our shul activities, KNMS publications will include additional events, articles and calls to action related to the environmental crisis.

## 6. Land, Buildings & Consumables

As KNMS is currently a tenant of Langdon College, not all elements of the building, and our use of it, are under the control of the synagogue. Working within this, KNM has made several changes to our synagogue’s activities and consumables with consideration to the environment. Over time, our KNM Green Team will review ways to improve on this further and put forward proposals for consideration and approval by the Tapuz.

The following measures have already been taken by KNMS:

- Paper use is reduced through double-sided copying/printing and digital distribution.
- We have moved to having no disposable cutlery and no new disposable crockery.
- Paper, glass, cans, and plastics are collected for recycling.
- Vegetarian, vegan or pescetarian food is preferred for our activities, including catered events.
- Any investment of funds by the synagogue will take account of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) considerations.
- In our use of the premises we try to minimise resource use.
- Some of our carbon emissions are calculated and offset.
- We will make further suggestions to reduce our carbon footprint.